

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

February 14, 2013

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Case (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on January 31, 2013 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Case

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending February 13, 2013 in the amount of **\$ 316,864.76** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of January 31 – February 13, 2013
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office January 7 – February 11, 2013
- Statement from the City Clerk's Office of all monies received during the month of January 2013 in the total amount of \$14,663.14
- Report of the Public Safety Committee meeting held on February 7, 2013
- Finance Department Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the months of December 2012 and January 2013

RESOLVED: That the reports as listed are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Case

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of \$ 1,211,564.69 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:

Thomas O’Keefe 48 Cogan Ave said just recently my wife and I purchased that home about 2 years ago. I rise tonight to speak of an issue that I brought to the attention of first the State University Police and I believe it was brought to the Chief of Police, also. My wife and I live about 2 blocks from the Field House and we go to the games on a regular basis. And there is no crosswalk between Cogan and Rugar. You take your life literally in your own hands when you cross that street after an event. I spoke to the University Police they told me they were not staffed to do it. I then called the Mayor’s office and was told the matter had been referred to the City Police and the University Police. I’ve been in law enforcement 32 years and I’m the president of my union. I know a little bit about bureaucracy to be honest I feel like this is getting the bureaucratic two step. I really like to bring this to you guys’ attention. Cogan Avenue has no sidewalks it’s a very quiet residential area and I think this is something we need to do. Also, on Cogan Avenue, Cogan Avenue is a main thoroughfare between Cornelia and Rugar and the cars come fly down there. We have runners, we have children playing. There’s a couple children playing signs, but, I’m very concerned about the traffic problem there especially when there is a Field House event. So I rise today to ask that we consider somehow give me an idea how to work through the system to get this done as expeditiously as possible. The second issue I would like to address with you folks is this is probably you’re going to say at first this isn’t our issue. As you know the property from Cogan over to Erin backwards borders up against the Town of Plattsburgh. And the reason I’m bringing that up is there seems to be a problem, and while it’s not the City’s problem, with camping in the Wal-Mart parking lot. The reason I bring that up is I’ve noticed in the 2 years we’ve been at Cogan there’s a lot of really aggressive, may sound funny, squirrels. And the other day I went to work and I saw a skunk the size of a small Labrador retriever. I think part of the problem is those campers and the food and mess they make. And perhaps we could coordinate something with the Town of Plattsburgh. They’re very well posted that there’s not supposed to be camping there and I think that’s a total waste of signage because on a given night there are hundreds of campers there. There’s food and the wildlife just migrates back in to the city. It’s really become a problem in our residence it gets in to our homes we’re talking problems. So perhaps you could look at something to correct that. I thank you for your time. By the way, my wife and I are pleased to be back in the city. We think it’s a great city, great police service, great fire service. I think the city deserves a lot of credit. We thank you.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Engineer to advertise for bids for Contract # 2013-02 “Dennis Avenue Improvements, Prospect Avenue – Olivetti Place.”

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves continuing the contract with James Burgess as the Nuisance Animal Control Officer for 2013 for the total cost of \$25,000 and there is no increase in cost from 2012.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion:

Councilor Rabideau said I'd like to add in relationship to what Tom had just addressed to us. First I'm hearing of it, Tom, but, it is my Ward. As far as the skunks it isn't just your area that has problem with skunks. It's on Fox Hill; it's in your Ward. Ward 2 he has given us a report on Ward 2 in the past on how many skunks in one year. By the way, I'd like to get another report if we could from him on the skunks that he does trap and so forth. I was talking to someone recently that lives on Filion Way and he says he traps the skunks himself and works with Jim Burgess. He says he knows this guy is really cooperative and I've only heard good things about him. Since we hired him I've only heard good reports back. That he's very cooperative with homeowners, with the traps, with the individuals that are having problems. You call the police department to set up the traps and so forth. But it isn't just one area that it happens it is City wide. If we could get a report we had some reports in the past. I think one time how many did we get it was just unbelievable like 26 skunks or something like that. Do you know Chief, how many it was?

Police Chief Desmond Racicot said there were several hundred skunks destroyed.

Councilor Rabideau said lots of different areas. I know he does a good job it's a good investment. It's cost effective the money that we're spending and I think he goes beyond just what he would normally do to help people. He also provides other services. He'll look at your place and say well if you're having ground hog problems and they're getting in he can set up a screen around. It would be extra it's above what he's paid by contract. But he'll tell people how you can avoid problems with varmints and so forth. He's very cooperative so it's a good investment.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the Valcour Sailing Club to reserve the use of the City Docks on Dock Street and the parking lot to park trailers and vehicles from August 14 – 18, 2013 for the 2013 Soling North American Regatta.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: Authorization to Participate in Lakes to Locks Passage Inc. (LTLP) kiosk Program.

Whereas, the Lakes to Locks Passage Inc. (LTLP) was formed to plan and carry out projects and programs to benefit the communities of the Lake Champlain, Lake George, and Champlain Canal regions, and

Whereas, the LTLP has received a grant from the NYS Dept. of Transportation to develop Waypoint community kiosks along the byway, and the City of Plattsburgh desires to sponsor byway kiosks in the City of Plattsburgh; therefore

It is resolved, The mayor is authorized to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with LTLP whereby the City will: pay \$600 as the city share of the project cost from available NYS grant funds; identify suitable locations for the kiosks on City property; and assist in the design and composition of messages to be displayed. The Lake City Local Development Corporation is authorized to represent the City of Plattsburgh in LTLP meetings and provide City input on kiosk siting, design and messaging.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion:

Corporation Council John Clute said I just want to clarify one thing. It says in the resolution that the \$600 was coming from New York State Grant funds. But I learned later that this \$600 was money that was donated to the city about 4 or 5 years ago in conjunction with the publication of a walking brochure in the city. It's very similar to this Kiosk signing thing. Technically it's not from New York State Grant funds but it is really unencumbered money that was from private donations. It's in the budget hasn't been spent and has been sitting there for quite a few years so I just wanted everybody to know that.

Councilor Jackson said do we need to amend the resolution?

Councilor Calnon said it doesn't really change the impact.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

E. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO EMILY DUPREY EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2013 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 78 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

F. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO KEVIN JESSEY EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2013 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 78 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

G. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO ANDREW WILLIAMS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2013 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 78 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

H. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO CHRISTOPHER HOLLAND EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2013 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 78 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

I. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER TO CONNOR

KOWALOWSKI EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2013 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 78 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

J. Motion to waive rule 4 for initial consideration “Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD that Bid No. 2012-12-1 “2013 Ford Transit Connect Vans” be awarded to Riley Ford in the total amount of \$45,990,” “Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD that Bid No. 2012-12-2 “Transformer Oil Liquid Screen and Gas Analysis Testing” be awarded to Transformer Service, Inc in the total amount of \$3,920.50 for 2013 and \$3,909.50 for 2014 and 2015.” “Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD that Bid No. 2013-1-1 “Electric Meters Revenue Type” be awarded to GoTToGo Electric, Inc. in the total amount of \$71,016.”

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bid No. 2012-12-1 “2013 Ford Transit Connect Vans” be awarded to Riley Ford in the total amount of \$45,990.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bid No. 2012-12-2 “Transformer Oil Liquid Screen and Gas Analysis Testing” be awarded to Transformer Service, Inc in the total amount of \$3,920.50 for 2013 and \$3,909.50 for 2014 and 2015.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion:

Councilor Carpenter said real quick, Chris, for the record could you explain why we’re moving the 3 of those tonight?

Councilor Jackson said yeah what happened is they had the bid openings and the bids will go stale by the time we have our next meeting because we now meet every two weeks.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that Bid No. 2013-1-1 “Electric Meters Revenue Type” be awarded to GoTToGo Electric, Inc. in the total amount of \$71,016.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot to continue the contract with ELMORE SPCA, INC. for Animal Shelter Services for 2013 for the sum of \$10,868 which is the same as last year.
2. Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot to continue the contract with Ron Santor as the Director of the Zone 9 Police Academy 2013 for the total cost of \$15,000 which is the same as last year.
3. Request from City Engineer for permission to advertise for bids for Contract # 2013-04 “Boynton Avenue Improvements, North Catherine Street – Lozier Place.”
4. Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD that Bid No. 2012-12-1 “2013 Ford Transit Connect Vans” be awarded to Riley Ford in the total amount of \$45,990. (**Move to agenda under “Other Items” Letter J**)
5. Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD that Bid No. 2012-12-2 “Transformer Oil Liquid Screen and Gas Analysis Testing” be awarded to Transformer Service, Inc in the total amount of \$3,920.50 for 2013 and \$3,909.50 for 2014 and 2015. (**Move to agenda under “Other Items” Letter J**)
6. Request from Bill Treacy Manager MLD that Bid No. 2013-1-1 “Electric Meters Revenue Type” be awarded to GoTToGo Electric, Inc. in the total amount of \$71,016. (**Move to agenda under “Other Items” Letter J**)
7. Request from Dave Powell that Contract #2010-1 “Laboratory Services Water Pollution Control Plant” be extended for one year to Adirondack Environmental Services for the total amount of \$100,300.

8. Request from Bill Treacy, Manager MLD to write-off unpaid final bills from November 1, 2011 to November 30, 2011 in the total amount of \$6,360.77. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .57%.
9. Request from the Community Development Office for permission to advertise for bids for Housing Rehab (Parrotte – 36 Olivetti Place).
10. Authorization to install digital sign on City Property

Resolved: Pursuant to City Code § 270-26 Q. the installation of a digital sign on city property is approved on the terms set forth in the recommendation of the Planning Board in its letter to the Mayor and Council dated February 4, 2012, a copy of which is made part of the minutes of this meeting.

11. Request from Erin McCartan from Special Olympics New York to hold the Polar Plunge on Saturday November 16, 2013 at the Plattsburgh City Beach.
12. Request from Carrie Trombley to hold a zumbathon for cystic fibrosis on April 13, 2013 at the City Recreation Center.
13. Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot for a Police Officer to attend the “TASER Instructor Recertification” in Saratoga Springs, NY from April 25 – April 26, 2013 at a cost not to exceed \$374 and will be expensed to the Asset Forfeiture account (DOJ).
14. Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot for a Police Officer to attend the “New York State Police Sex Offense Seminar” in Albany, NY from May 5- May 10, 2013 at no cost to the City. All costs are being paid by the Clinton County Child Advocacy Center.
15. Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot for a Police Officer to attend the “New York State Academy of Fire Science Fire/Arson Investigation Training” in Montour Falls, NY from June 2 – 7, 2013 and June 9 – 14, 2013. The total cost will not exceed \$2,494.50 and will be expensed to the Asset Forfeiture Fund (DOJ).
16. Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot for a Police Officer to attend the “New York State Academy of Fire Science Fire Behavior/Arson Awareness/Principles of Fire Training” in Montour Falls, NY from May 4 – 10, 2013. The total cost will not exceed \$1,339.50 and will be expensed to the General Fund.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Calnon said contrary to some of the things that were said from our podium here. Our Public Safety committee meeting last week lasted almost 2 hours and unlike these meetings where we’re dealing with a series of resolutions that are structured and very pointed. We were able to have actually a broader based discussion and you can take things where a conversation will lead you. Most of what we did as the report indicates was to really gather a lot of information about our departments so as we meet later in the

year we'll be able to work from that foundation of knowledge. But the implication that we have the night off was certainly not the case. As I say it was just about 7 o'clock when we rolled out of here and I thought it was a very productive meeting.

Councilor Jackson said as did I.

Mayor Kasprzak said none of you have to defend yourselves to me with your schedule.

Councilor Calnon said not at all. But I think it's important when people step up to the podium and say things that are not particularly true that we have an opportunity to say no I'm sorry you're wrong and that's what this is for.

Councilor Carpenter said you're right we have an obligation to explain what you're doing.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:52 pm